

NEWS RELEASE

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Three Men Charged with Conspiracy To Distribute 41 Kilos of Cocaine

Springfield, IL -- Jan Paul Miller, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a federal grand jury in Springfield returned an indictment today charging three men with conspiring to distribute 41 kilograms (90 pounds) of cocaine. The two-count indictment charges Jesus Sanchez, age 32, and Efren Sanchez, age 45, both Mexican citizens living in Chicago, and Robert J. Quinlan, age 57, of Paris, Texas. Each of the defendants is charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine and possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute it.

The three men were arrested and charged by criminal complaint on January 31, 2005. According to the affidavit filed by a Drug Enforcement Administration agent in support of that complaint, the charges arose from a January 29, 2005, traffic stop of Quinlan by an Illinois State Police Trooper in the northbound lanes of Interstate 55 near Williamsville, Illinois, as Quinlan was towing a camping trailer behind a pickup truck. According to the affidavit, Quinlan consented to a search of camper, in which officers recovered approximately 41 kilograms of cocaine.

The affidavit alleges that Quinlan agreed to cooperate with state and federal agents by pretending to deliver the cocaine. According to the affidavit, on January 30, 2005, Efren Sanchez allegedly met Quinlan in a hotel parking lot in Kankakee, Illinois, with Jesus Sanchez watching nearby.

(More)

If convicted, Jesus Sanchez and Quinlan each face a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years to life imprisonment, and Efren Sanchez faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years to life imprisonment.

United States Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore has ordered that all three defendants be detained without bond pending trial.

The charges are the result of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation conducted jointly by the Illinois State Police and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Risley.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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